



Tanya Gupta



Doli

Missing field visits... the non COVID times...

Current Protected Area Network of India

(Position as on June 30, 2020)

National Parks – 101; Area 40564.04 km² (1.23%)

Wildlife Sanctuaries – 553; Area 119756.97 km² (3.64%)

Conservation Reserves – 86; Area 3858.25 km² (0.12%)

Community Reserves – 163; Area 833.34 km² (0.03%)

Total Protected Areas: 903; Area 1,65,012.59 sq km, (5.02%)

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In the Next Issue

- Webinar for Capacity Building of Zoo Personnel in Managing Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Aquatic Macro-Fauna of Ganga Basin



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Around the Campus



XL Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management concluded

Wildlife habitats are rapidly being degraded, fragmented, altered and reduced in size, thus placing the biodiversity and ecosystem services that they support in jeopardy. An additional threat is the effect of climate change on these habitats. Effectively addressing these threats is a knowledge-driven process based on information and expertise in diverse fields. A 10-month Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advanced Wildlife Management was initiated by the Wildlife Institute of India for in-service forest officers in Indian States and similar designations in other countries in the region to bridge the gap in capacities.

The course began on 1 September 2019 and concluded on 30 June 2020. It started with a full capacity of 20 trainees that included 15 forest officials of Deputy/ Assistant Conservator of Forests rank from ten Indian States and five foreign nationals of equivalent position (two from Myanmar and three from Bangladesh). The course was divided into four sub-components. Expert inputs were provided by the faculty members of the Institute, subject experts and external experts in the form of field officials and subject specialists. A total of 66 days of field input was provided through six field tours and two short trips. The restrictions due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the use of online methods of pedagogy. The management plan field tour was carried out at the Institute with online inputs from in-house as well as external experts. The international integrated wildlife

management tour could not be undertaken due to the same reason. The capacity development process of the officer trainees was periodically assessed through assignments, tests, quizzes and participation in group discussions and seminars.

All the 20 trainee officers were successfully able to complete the diploma course, with 15 of them receiving an honours diploma. The Valedictory Function for the course was held on 30 June 2020 which was presided over by Shri Jairaj, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Govt. of Uttarakhand, with Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Director, WII. The trainees were bestowed with the following six awards:

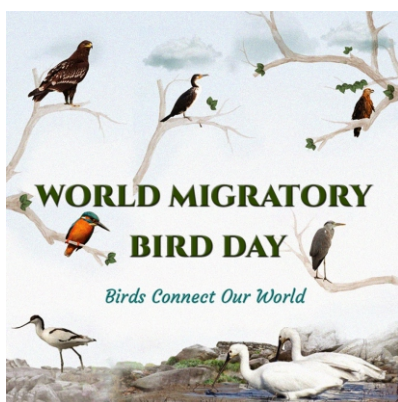
Institute's Gold Medal for the Top Trainee for receiving highest aggregate marks in all modules was awarded to Ms. Harini Venugopal, Rajasthan Cadre, while the Wildlife Preservation Society Silver Medal for the Second in Merit went to Shri Arun Vignesh C.S., Assam Cadre. The Silver Medal for the 'Best All Round Wildlifer' was awarded to Shri Manu Sathyan, Kerala Cadre. The NR Nair Memorial Silver Medal for Best Management Plan was received by Ms. Harini Venugopal, whereas Dr. Dileep Kumar H., Tamil Nadu Cadre received the AK Chatterjee Silver Medal for Best Management Term Paper. Shri Arun Vignesh C.S. was adjudged the Top Trainee in Wildlife Biology. The Silver Medal for the Best Foreign Trainee was awarded to Md. Sharifuzzaman from Bangladesh.



Celebration of World Heritage Day, Dehradun,

18 April 2020. The UNESCO-WII C2C on World Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region celebrated World Heritage Day - 2020 on 18 April 2020. To commemorate the occasion and spread awareness about natural heritage among students, online drawing and essay competitions were organised. Children of officials and staff of forestry institutions based in Dehradun participated in the competition. The entries for the middle category (6th - 8th Standard) were evaluated by a four-member committee. Criteria for evaluation included relevance to the subject, originality/ perspective, composition, and overall presentation. Adequate entries were not received for the remaining categories; hence the participants in these categories were given consolation prize. The results of both the competitions for the middle category were declared and uploaded on the website of the Institute. Due to social distancing norms, the prizes and certificates will be distributed after the lockdown period.

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Migratory Bird Day Celebrated, Dehradun, 9 May 2020.

It was decided to celebrate the day online because of the current pandemic. The social media platforms, viz. Instagram and Facebook were chosen to conduct the activities. On the official handle, the Ganga Darpan pictures of various birds were uploaded for the participants to identify. The participants with maximum correct answers were recognized and felicitated.

Earth Day Celebrated, Dehradun, 22 April 2020.

Following this year's theme on Earth Day, i.e. Climate Change, the NMCG team at WII decided to create an awareness video revolving around this subject. The team tried to depict how human distancing from the environment during the pandemic has given it some time to heal. The team made a compilation of all the reports that show nature's process of healing. The reports explained that even after the lockdown is over, everybody should try to keep the environment and surroundings clean and let them nurture. The members of the Ganga Ridai Eco-club were involved in making a video on how small changes in the daily routine can contribute towards a better environment. The video was uploaded on various social media platforms, like Youtube, Instagram & Facebook and was even forwarded on Whatsapp.

International Day for Biological Diversity

Celebrations, Dehradun, 22 May 2020. ENVIS Resource Partner, "Wildlife and Protected Areas" at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun organised an Online Photography contest on 21 May 2020 to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity "Our Solutions are in Nature" on 22 May 2020. The main aim of organising this online photography contest was to raise awareness among citizens and understanding issues related to biodiversity among students

A nomination advertisement was circulated and uploaded on WII-ENVIS website, social media platforms, viz. WII-ENVIS; MoEFCC's Facebook page and Twitter handle. Over 290 enthusiastic applicants were registered for the photography contest in three different categories.

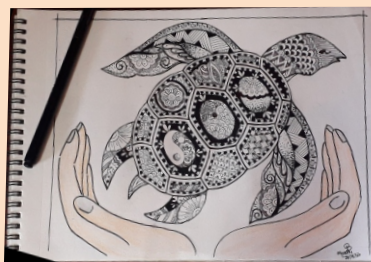
All interested students, researchers, amateur, professional photographers registered themselves through the online google registration form. The theme of photography was "Nature showcasing solutions to mankind". The best photographers in each category will be awarded merit certificates. All the participants will also be given the e-Certificate.

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World Turtle Day Celebrated, Dehradun, 23 May 2020.

Turtle is one of the most critical prevailing species in the Ganga river. Therefore, it was decided by the NMCG team of WII to celebrate the day and involve school and college students to participate online in the drawing, painting, essay writing, slogan writing, and video making competitions. There were three categories based on the classes of students. The theme was 'Turtle Conservation or River Ganga – Pre and Post Lockdown'. The total numbers of entries received were 40. The winners were announced, and the certificates were sent to them.



World Environment Day Celebrated, Dehradun, 5 June 2020.

The World Environment Day, 2020 was celebrated at WII. The theme for the World Environment Day was "Biodiversity" as declared by the UNEP. On this World Environment Day, the NMCG team of WII tried to reach individuals through social media platforms to take a pledge towards keeping the environment healthy. A pledge and an environment quiz were devised using Google forms, and the link was circulated on social media. The response was great, and a total of 213 individuals took the pledge, and the total number of participants in the quiz was more than 700. A participation certificate was given to every individual. A video was prepared, with a message from the Director and Scientists of Wildlife Institute of India explaining the theme of the World Environment Day. The video was uploaded on the newly created Twitter handle of Wildlife Institute of India and on various other social media platforms which acquired a huge viewer base.



On the occasion of Dugong Day – 2020, online competitions were conducted by the CAMPA-Dugong Recovery Project Team at Tamil Nadu. The competitions were held four for age group categories. There were five competitions, i.e. Essay Writing; Poetry Writing; Drawing; Painting; and Video Making. Two topics were given for each age group, and the entries were invited in two languages, i.e. English and Tamil. This enabled children from all backgrounds, especially the local fishing community of Tamil Nadu to take part in the competitions. A total of 315 entries from India and abroad were received. All participants were given participation certificates, and the winners (76 in number) were awarded certificates and gifts consisting of awareness material and souvenirs.

Farewell...

Dr Pradeep K. Malik

Dr Pradeep K. Malik superannuated as Scientist –G at the Wildlife Institute of India on 31 May 2020. Dr Malik has over three decades of experience in building enhanced wildlife health capacity in India amongst the next generation of wildlife health professionals as well as frontline staff. He has vast experience in supporting protected area managers in tackling human-wildlife conflict with a particular focus on large carnivores.



Dr Malik has developed a series of modules on wildlife health management for biologists, veterinarians, wildlife managers and frontline staff of protected areas. These modules are now part of WII's regular and short-term courses. He provided technical expertise to many projects of the Institute. His primary interests included health management of wild and domestic animals, mitigation of interface conflict, human resource development, radio telemetry, and immobilisation of wild animals and development of collaborative international programs.

Dr Malik has been the recipient of the Carl Zeiss award in 2002 for his outstanding contributions to the field of wildlife health in India and his passionate contributions and commitment to the conservation of wild tigers, wildlife and wilderness areas across the region.

Dr S.A. Hussain

Dr S.A. Hussain joined the Wildlife Institute of India as a research fellow in 1986 and worked with the Chambal Aquatic Species Conservation Project. Subsequently, he obtained M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in wildlife sciences from the Centre for Wildlife and Ornithology, Aligarh Muslim University. He joined as a faculty member of the Institute in 1994. He developed and implemented courses related to wetlands and coastal habitat management, and wildlife & protected area management. He conducted research on free-ranging wildlife and their habitats. He identified and prioritised areas for conservation at the landscape level, including prioritisation of trans-boundary protected areas. His interests included wildlife ecology, ecosystem services and protected area management.



Dr Hussain worked with the Otter Specialist Group as Focal, Red List Authority. He is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and Commission on Ecosystem Management. Dr Hussain took part in the XV Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica during 1996–97. He specialised in Wetlands and Coastal Habitat Management; Management of Small Populations; Protected Area Management; Assessment of Ecosystem Services; and Small Carnivore Ecology and Conservation. Dr Hussain superannuated from WII's services on 30 June 2020.



WII family wishes all the best to Shri Hari Singh and Shri Bal Kishan on their retirement from WII services.

Shri Hari Singh
Chowkidar
(July 1984-April 2020)

Shri Bal Kishan
Cook
(July 1984-March 2020)



Patron: Director, WII

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"When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, and the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realise, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money."

- **Canadian Cree Alanis Obomsawin**

Source: <http://www.wildhelpers.com/wildlife-quotes.html>